WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of processing tobacco dust which develops in the course of the making of tobacco-containing products, comprising the steps of:

gathering the dust; and

processing gathered dust into particles having sizes greater than the average size of dust.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said processing step includes extruding gathered dust.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said processing step includes agglomerating gathered dust into said particles.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said agglomerating step includes compacting gathered dust.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of monitoring the sizes of the particles, and comminuting the particles having sizes greater than a predetermined size.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the processing step includes processing gathered dust into particles constituting granules of agglomerated dust.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of making a rod-like tobacco filler, and embedding the particles in the filler.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said step of making the filler includes sifting a mixture of tobacco fragments, said embedding step including admixing the particles to the mixture upon completion of said sifting step.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the mixture contains fragments of tobacco ribs and said sifting step includes segregating the fragments of tobacco ribs from the mixture.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of converting the sifted mixture into a moving stream and said embedding step including admixing the particles to the stream.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said stream is a shower.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said admixing step includes admitting to successive increments of the moving stream metered quantities of particles.

13. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of monitoring the density of the filler and said embedding step includes introducing the particles into the filler at a rate which is a function of monitored density of the filler.

14. The method of claim 7, wherein said embedding step includes introducing the particles into the filler at a predetermined rate.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said rate is a gradually variable rate.

16. Apparatus for processing tobacco dust which develops in the course of the making of tobacco-containing products, comprising;

means for gathering the dust; and

means for processing gathered dust into particles having sizes greater than the average size of dust.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said means for processing gathered dust includes means for agglomerating tobacco dust into particles.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said agglomerating means includes means for converting dust into particles with the application of pressure.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for comminuting at least the particles having sizes exceeding a predetermined size.

20. A machine for making smokers' products, comprising:

means for establishing a supply of comminuted smokable material including tobacco dust;

means for segregating the dust from the supply and for gathering the segregated dust into tobacco-containing particles;

means for converting the dedusted supply into smokers' products; and

means for admitting the particles to the dedusted supply.

21. The machine of claim 20, wherein said converting means comprises means for advancing a stream of dedusted supply in a predetermined direction along a predetermined path, said means for admitting including means for supplying the particles into a predetermined portion of said path.

22. The machine of claim 21, wherein said converting means further comprises means for sifting the stream in a second portion of said path upstream of said predetermined portion.

23. The machine of claim 21, wherein said admitting means includes means for supplying metered quantities of particles into said predetermined portion of said path.